

The Christian Advocate

The Star of Zion

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

VOL. XVII.

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NUMBER 9

THE SOUTH FLORIDA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

REPORTED BY J. D. BALLARD.

The South Florida Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church met in its third session in the Zion church in Gainesville...

The conference was then opened by the bishop reading and expounding from the third chapter of Matt. and First Epistle of John.

After prayer and singing which made the times bright and refreshing; a full board of officers were elected: The roll was called, more than a quorum answered to their names.

Dr. A. S. Jerry was introduced and by privilege of the bishop, he made some brilliant and favorable remarks respecting the Negroes of America. He was replied to by J. D. Ballard.

The annual sermon was delivered by G. W. Maise, of Tampa, Theme: "The World a Conquered Foe." We need not say the elder did well.

Thursday.—The conference was opened by the bishop reading the 61st chapter of Isa., and 15th chapter Isa.

After prayer and singing, Rev. D. J. Young, fraternal delegate from East Tennessee conference, was introduced and licensed to speak; and with well chosen words and sentiment, he filled the conference with gloom.

Ministers of the M. E. and C. M. E. churches were introduced and spoke kind words of encouragement. They then were replied to in calm eloquence by Bro. F. C. Burrows, W. C. Vestal and D. J. Young.

Rev. J. R. Harris, the speaker of the evening, selected 48th Psalm, 2nd verse and 2nd clause. The elder dwelt on the term "Zion," he stayed close to his text and with telling remarks he did credit to himself and church.

The Ladies Working Association presented the conference \$59.64. Singing by the audience and benediction by Rev. Harris.

The third day's session was opened by the bishop reading 39th Psalm and 33rd chapter St. Luke. The following are some of his remarks:

God created us for a great and grand purpose, hence we should be honest in all our dealings with mankind, and strive to get the unity of the Spirit, as no man can succeed without the Spirit of God.

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speaker of the evening. Benediction by Rev. Strong. In time Rev. Young appeared before his audience and selected Heb. 11:3 for his text. Theme, "The gift of God to man, and its happy results." The elders delineations might be compared to a historical lens connecting the past and present ages.

Saturday.—The fourth day's session was opened by the Bishop who conducted the devotional exercises. Rev. J. B. Williams was introduced and in his remarks he made us glad respecting the union of the A. M. E. Z. and A. M. E. churches.

Rev. J. W. Cooper, steward and fraternal delegate, from Alabama conference and J. W. Duke, P. E. of the A. M. E. church were introduced. W. C. Vestal, the annual conference steward reported \$261.25.

Rev. Cooper read a thrilling and glowing report from Alabama, which showed him to be a careful student of sacred and profane history; the report did great credit to him and church.

S. L. McDonnell of Jacksonville, was introduced. The devotional committee informed us that A. L. Higgs, of Key West, associated by W. J. Sanders, would be the speaker of the evening.

In time Rev. Higgs appeared before his audience and selected Nehemiah vi:3, his subject, theme, "The wall of spiritual redemption built by Christ was typical in the person of Nehemiah."

The young divines made us all look forward to the time when he will be a workman who need not be ashamed, singing and benediction by Rev. Higgs closed the 4th day's session.

Sunday's session:—In concordance with appointment of the devotional committee T. H. Darby, one of the old pioneers of the Florida conference, made his appearance at 11 a. m., before his audience and selected for his subject 2nd Corinthian vi:1. We need not speak of the Elder's pulp ability as it has been long decided that he is a workman who need not be ashamed, and one of whom we need not be ashamed.

With master eloquence, prophetic zeal and wisdom the bishop moved his grand audience before him as in a whirlwind. The height and depth of his scriptural reasoning is certainly baffling to many a mind.

It must have been an act of Providence, that he is a bishop; words are too weak, and their meaning too short, to express or explain the manner in which he delivered to us, the God sent message.

For one hour he swayed his audience right and left, while his pathos excited the swelling throat to loud Hosannas, and with strains of sweet resonance, and joyous admonition, happy souls echoed loud amens. Long will this noble and master sermon live in the hearts of those who heard it.

Sunday night.—Rev. W. G. Strong, the last speaker for the day appeared and selected for his text, 1st Timothy iii:16. Theme, "In what respects is the human redemption a mystery?"

The elder made loud and terse explanations, both upon sacred and profane history and with his verbal recitations of hymns he proved himself to be a man of a good relative faculty as well as a good Bible man.

Monday morning.—The fifth day's session was opened by the bishop reading the 1st chapter of 1st Timothy.

Rev. J. A. Parker and Rev. C. H. Ugues and T. J. Hayes, gentlemen of great literary ability and influence were introduced. Rev. Ugues treated us to a few words of ripe thought.

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ing part of the 33d chapter of Exodus, and the 4th chapter of 2d Timothy. After singing and prayer, the roll was called and a quorum being present the conference proceeded to business.

On motion of Rev. Sexton, the conference voted that the next annual conference should meet in Tampa, Fla., on the second Wednesday in February 1894.

Rev. D. J. Young, delegate from East Tennessee conference, read a glowing report which spoke very highly of himself and conference.

Although the revival season, so called, has passed, Rev. Caldwell being a staunch believer in having the church always revived, ordered the doors of the church at each service to those who desire to come over on the Lord's side.

Rev. A. M. Barrett, principal of the Barrett High School, Pee Dee, N. C., and his son Mr. Wm. Barrett, one of the teachers of the institution, are visiting our city in the interest of the school.

We are happy to note that good practical results are beginning to spring from Miss Ada Morris' book binding school.

The Lincoln Literary and Musical Association, one of the oldest societies in the city, and the only one of its kind, devoted exclusively to literary attainments, held its regular meeting on Tuesday evening, Feb. 21st, at 108 West 32d St.

Madam Sisiretta Jones, who has been styled the "Bliss Path," sang at the residence of Judge Andrews, Fifth Avenue, last week, and was the recipient of a check for \$1,000 from the Chief Justice of India, who was present.

Departed this life at the A. M. E. Zion church parsonage, Saturday morning February 11th, Thaddeus Stevens Hawkins, oldest son of the Rev. M. F. Hawkins, and a member of the Junior class of the Elizabeth City, State Normal School.

At Sabbath morning service at "Mother Zion" Rev. J. S. Caldwell preached on "Christian Lights." Those lights, are love, works and patience, and Christians are to let their words that others may see and praise God.

The Sabbath school exercises were of a very interesting nature as usual. At 7:30 p. m., the conference adjourned for the night.

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NEW-YORK ITEMS.

Rev. J. W. Smith, of Carlisle, Pa., visited our city last week and delivered an eloquent and powerful discourse on "Penitence and Remission of Sin" at Zion Church Monday evening, 30th inst. It was indeed a spiritual treat, and when pastor Caldwell assured the congregation that they had only enjoyed a "taste" of what Rev. Smith could do, a universal desire to hear him again in the near future.

Rev. J. H. White, P. E. of the New Jersey District was in New-York recently and reported the cause of the Missouri, and that branch of the Zion as flourishing. The church at Trenton has been renovated and beautified under the energetic pastorate of Rev. M. M. Edmondson.

Although the revival season, so called, has passed, Rev. Caldwell being a staunch believer in having the church always revived, ordered the doors of the church at each service to those who desire to come over on the Lord's side.

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Mrs. William Phillips, wife of the Deacon of Zion church has been dangerously ill for nearly two weeks, but at this writing is slowly recovering.

Grand results have attended the revival all throughout the city and in our sister city of Brooklyn. Many additions have been made to the "army of the Lord" in all the churches, and the ranks of the enemy have suffered rout.

Rev. J. S. Saunders of Newark, N. J., preached an excellent sermon Sunday morning 19th ult., at Zion from a part of the 15th verse of the 14th chapter of Exodus:—"Go forward." He showed that the duty of the child of God was to place implicit confidence in Him and go forward in the path which his Lord has marked out for him.

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CULTURE.

Of the many things and conditions that are powerful in making a people what they should be, nothing is more far reaching and necessary than culture.

Of course, we mean culture in its broadest sense, and most certainly embracing all that enters into the make-up of the truly rounded man or woman.

Hence, it is not restricted to efficiency in any one thing. And since it is now, to a greater or less degree, in the reach of most individuals, no one should be absolutely void of it.

In its universality, it includes extensive and unquestionable home-training which is made manifest in conscientious performances of duty, of man to man, in whatever condition, or vocation of life.

And also in strict abstinence, of love and reverence to, and for God, morality, religion and all things pertaining thereto.

If this is, in any case, neglected, every young person, at one time, or another has ample time to bridge the chasm.

Second comes intellectual development in all its forms. To be proficient in all those things that make the scholar, the philosopher, the optimist and the scientist, in the highest degree, is not the happy and express privilege of every one is true; but the advantages now offered, together with the spirit of the age, lay a certain amount of this great lever-power at the feet of every one who wills to possess it.

To be an intelligent speaker and writer; an easy, pleasing and instructive, if not brilliant and charming conversationalist, a man or woman of desirable and commendable manners, possessing sufficient knowledge to rightly perform the numerous and arduous tasks, necessary to the life and improvement of a people, is to be, simply and in toto, a cultured man or woman whose success and usefulness in life is more or less absolutely sure.

This much every one can have, and this much, every generation with whom rests the hope of any people or nation, must have, if they would do anything for themselves or their fellow-men.

The man or woman thus equipped attracts influences and benefits. It truly makes life more worth living. Without it, many lives that are filled with feignings, pretensions and attempted imitations are miserably and worthlessly eked out and flitted away.

The cultured teacher is an angle in the profession, beside the stiff and crude text-book's man or woman, who knows just but Mathematics and Grammar.

In the school-room he or she wins, rules and instructs the child by wisdom and force of character, and brute force is almost if not entirely unknown.

In the community they are a veritable power for good because they are prepared to influence and hold, and enable by instruction, which every one must be able to do, who would have his or her teachings practiced and their efforts be successful.

In the pulpit, the cultured preacher is a Moses, as compared with the one-sided amatter and indolent incumbent, who has manifold chances to be otherwise, but who is satisfied to continually equal "Christ died, and Peter preached, and such and such a thing was fore-ordained."

The former influences his followers, touches their hearts arouses and enthralls and instructs them, and thereby gently leads them on to God. Hence, among the many fortunes of an individual or a people which excite so much activity, scorchings and perseverance. None are more productive of usefulness and happiness than culture.

Very sincerely,
W. M. PROVINCE,
Livingstone College,
Salisbury, N. C., Feb. 10th, 1893.

MISSIONARY NEWS.

FROM OUR MISSIONARY SECRETARY, REV. J. H. MANLEY.

The Many Friends of Chattanooga, Athens, St. Elmo, Orchard Knob, Fort Cheatham, Tenn., Atlanta, Ga., Mt. Gomery and Mobile Ala., give him a Grand Reception.

Dear Editor—Since my last letter appeared in THE STAR, I have had the pleasure of visiting the above named cities, but during the time I have been on the field until two weeks ago. I came in contact with the ice king and his gang, whose noble fingers had seven their frosty frost scenes on the window panes, and clothed the fields and forest with a snowy mantle, and decorated boughs and trees with icicles glittering like diamonds or flashing with precious colors, but we managed through God and the kindness of our many friends to pass through unscathed. It is gratifying to report that despite adverse circumstances we have gained everywhere we have gone. Rev. W. H. Ferguson, of Hamilton, N. C. is a member of the Board of Directors, New York, N. Y.

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